

## **Focus of Asset Management Collaboration Working Session**

The purpose of the Working Session is to identify a three-to-five-year action agenda that reflects the coordinated efforts of 1) the water industry, 2) the industry's training stakeholders (both professional organization and academic based), 3) its research stakeholders (private and public) and 4) its regulators and related governmental institutions in the advancement of asset management practices throughout the industry and, where practical, in state and local government in general.

*To be successful in this purpose, the 1) mission, 2) organizational composition and 3) agenda of such an organizational effort must be determined. This Working Session focuses on the building of an initial action agenda; it is anticipated that the agenda will subsequently inform the defining of the mission and in determining the composition of some form of "Coordinating Steering Committee". The mission and composition of the "Committee" will be addressed at a subsequent, separate Working Session.*

Major questions of focus for the Session include (but are in no way limited to):

### Utility Coordination and Collaboration:

- What specific assistance is most needed to advance the AM efforts currently underway and to support those contemplating moving forward?
- What systemic "inhibitors" to the deployment of AM need to be removed and what assistance, if any, can entities outside a specific agency effectively render in removing those inhibitors?
- How best to build on the AM efforts underway in various utilities so that "lessons learned" are readily available to peers and interested parties?
- How best to share data, techniques, examples of "deliverables", training materials, etc.?

### Education and Training:

- How best to educate university level students who wish to develop competence in the management of infrastructure (undergraduate and graduate levels, engineering and non-engineering students)?
- How to provide systematic, integrated and staged training for working professionals (people already in the industry)?
- What about competency certification?

### Research:

- What kind of research activities would most effectively further AM Best Practices?
- What kind of research collaboration should be encouraged and how?
- How to foster efforts to improve the effective staging of research that advances the body of knowledge through a wider base of application?
- How to avoid duplication of effort and most effectively leverage the general body of effort (nationally and internationally)?

### Institutional Relationships, Including Regulatory considerations:

- What institutional relationships among the various levels of government (federal, state, local) inhibit the efficient deployment of AM practices?
- What actions, if any, can be taken to support and improve the practice of AM by making innovative adjustments in the institutional relationships among the various levels of government?
- How to improve "bottom up" intergovernmental processes to better define service levels and the impact on cost and risk of providing sustainable services (environmental, social and economic) at the community level.